CLAIMS

1./ A system, comprising:

- (a) items of merchandise in a rack, each bearing a unique code;
- b) means for generating the codes, and delivering a duplicate of each code to a different remote location; and
- c) means for
 - i) receiving a duplicate from a person who transported the duplicate from a remote location, and
 - ii) reading the code from an item of merchandise.
- 2. System according to claim 1, wherein the means of paragraph (c) sounds a warning if the codes do not match.
- A method of delivering items of merchandise to customers, comprising the following steps:
 - a) maintaining items of merchandise in a rack, each bearing a unique code;
 - b) when generating the codes, delivering a duplicate of each code to a different remote location; and
 - c) at a station,

- i) receiving a duplicate from a person,
- ii) reading the code from an item of merchandise, and
- iii) sounding a warning if the codes do not match.
- 4. Method of operating a restaurant, comprising the following steps:
 - a) maintaining a web page on the Internet;
 - b) taking orders for food items on the web page and issuing identifying codes to persons placing the orders;
 - c) preparing food in accordance with the orders;
 - d) placing prepared orders in a bay, each labeled with a respective identifying code;
 - e) without human intervention at a check out station,
 - i) reading an identifying code from an order;
 - ii) accepting an identifying code from a
 person;
 - iii) comparing the codes and,
 - A) if they do not match, causing an alarm; and
 - B) if they do match, accepting payment without causing an alarm.
 - Method of operating a restaurant, comprising the

following steps:

- a) accepting a message from a customer located outside the restaurant, which identifies food items to be packaged;
- b) packaging the identified food items into packages;
- c) attaching one or more labels to the packages, which indicate
 - i) in machine-readable format, price of the food items,
 - in human-readable format, the name of the customer;
- d) placing the labeled packages into a bay for retrieval by customers;
- e) allowing customers to retrieve the packages from the bay;
- f) accepting a retrieved package from a customer at a non-staffed checkout station and, at the station,
 - i) reading a price from the machine-readable label.
- 6. Method according to claim 5, and further comprising the step of obtaining payment from the customer at the non-staffed checkout station.